

Children in need of protection - Protection is provided in all provinces for children who are deprived of a normal home life. Services provided by the provincial child welfare authority or by children's aid societies, include supervision and counselling services to families and children in their own homes. Alternative care, when necessary, is provided in the form of foster care, institutional care or adoption placement. Counselling services are available to unmarried parents. Institutional care for unmarried mothers for a period before and after the birth of the child is offered by voluntary agencies, usually under religious auspices. Services for delinquent children are variously administered; in some provinces they are operated by the provincial welfare department and in others by another department, usually that of the attorney-general. Institutions for juvenile delinquents are operated by the provincial authority and in some provinces are under religious auspices.

Family services - A variety of other services designed to strengthen family life are offered in areas where a combination of demand and resources have fostered their development. These include day-care and homemaker services and counselling services. Day-care for the children of working mothers includes publicly-sponsored services in one province; in other provinces they are entirely under voluntary auspices. The shortage of day-care and homemaker services which exists in all provinces is a matter of concern to welfare and other community agencies.

Specialized counselling services for families and young persons are offered by family agencies, neighbourhood centres, mental health clinics and other agencies. Provincial authorities are making efforts to strengthen their preventive and rehabilitative services available to persons in need both at the provincial and regional levels.

III. SOCIAL WELFARE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

While the emphasis in Canada has, historically been more on the economic than on the social aspects of development, humanitarian as well as economic considerations have led to the development and modification of welfare programmes through the various stages of national development from a pioneer through an agricultural to an industrial economy.

Rudimentary health services and the earliest forms of institutional care for the old and the sick have grown into more complex programmes. Action, in the first instance, was often taken by voluntary non-governmental agencies; with the emergence of an industrial society accompanied by increased dependence of the individual on the community came the first income maintenance approaches and the development of broader conceptions of social welfare responsibility at the local and provincial levels. Except in the case of groups like the Indians, immigrants or mariners, where the need for a national approach was recognized, there was little federal involvement in the field of welfare.